

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, GARAGE
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 7)
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks
Division)
VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
Saint Louis
Independent City
Missouri

HABS MO-1943-G
MO-1943-G

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, GARAGE (BUILDING 7)

HABS No. MO-1943-G

Location: Building 7, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,
St. Louis, Missouri
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri
UTM Coordinates 16 7258128 E 9965780N

Date of Construction: 1922-1923

Designer: Treasury Department Supervising Architect's Office

Contractor: James Stewart and Company

Present Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Present Use: Engineering Shops/Warehouse

Significance: The Garage was part of the early 1920s effort to build modern hospitals for U.S. military veterans. The building continued to serve as a garage at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, from the 1920s through the 1950s, and was later used for maintenance offices and storing lawn-mowing equipment. The north wing of the building was added in the 1930s and has always been used for storage.

Project Information: This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

Description:

The Garage (Building 7) is a one-story stucco-clad facility with two wings, a south wing that faces south and a north wing with a long wall that faces west. The Garage has a reinforced-concrete frame composed of concrete posts, beams, and floor and roof slabs. The building sits in a central area of the medical center that is characterized by asphalt roads and parking lots, and storage and maintenance shop buildings. The south wing of the Garage faces a large asphalt parking lot that is south of the building, and the north wing faces a roadway west of the building and is across the street from the Storehouse (Building 8). The south wing is L-shaped, eleven bays wide on the south wall and eleven bays deep on the west wall. The north (warehouse) wing of the building faces west, and the west wall is nine bays wide, while the north wall is three bays.

The interior of the Garage has a mostly industrial character and retains exposed structural elements such as reinforced-concrete posts and beams, concrete floors, and terra-cotta block walls. The south wing of the building is used for maintenance offices and as garage space, so this part of the building is a series of small rooms. The building's north wing is a warehouse and has a more open layout.

The south wall of the Garage is part of the south wing and is also the building's facade; the south wall has stucco-clad walls, a stucco-clad parapet, eleven metal overhead replacement doors, and a flat steel replacement door. The west two bays of the facade are somewhat taller than the rest of the facade and project out from the facade. The east bay of the facade also projects out. The north (rear) wall of the south wing has stucco cladding and a series of metal replacement windows. The west wall of the south wing has stucco-clad walls, several metal replacement windows, two metal replacement overhead doors, and a stucco-clad parapet.

The west wall of the north wing features a concrete loading dock with concrete steps and a concrete ramp, as well as several metal replacement windows and two sets of steel one-light metal replacement doors with transoms. The building's stucco-clad parapet extends to the north wing's west wall. The north wall of the north wing has a stucco-clad parapet, two metal replacement windows, a metal replacement overhead door, and a small porch with steel columns and a flat metal roof. The north wing's east (rear) wall is clad in stucco and has a series of metal replacement windows and a metal gutter. The parapet that is present on the other three sides of the building does not extend to the east wall, probably because the east wall is the rear wall and is not visible from the street.

The interior of the south wing is composed of several small garage spaces with concrete floors, painted concrete-block or terra-cotta-block walls, and concrete ceilings. The office spaces and parts-storage rooms in the northern portion of the south wing are similar in character to the garage bays.

The interior of the Garage's north wing has an open warehouse layout. The building has one small interior office enclosure along the west wall, but the rest of the interior is one large open warehouse space that features reinforced-concrete posts, painted terra-cotta block walls, concrete floors, and a beam and slab concrete ceiling. This portion of the building is still used for warehouse purposes.

History:

The U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, was part of an early 1920s plan to reform health care for veterans. Before the early 1920s, health care for veterans had in many cases been dispensed from improvised facilities that were in poor condition and not well suited for the task. After a well-publicized tour of some of these hospitals, the U.S. Veterans Bureau began planning and construction on new, modern hospitals throughout the United States. Planning for the U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, including drafting of construction drawings, took place in 1922. Construction on the Garage and other major buildings at the hospital began in 1922 and was completed in 1923. Original 1920s construction drawings for the original part (the south wing) of the Garage were not found, but the building is visible on early plot plans and aerial photographs of the U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, so it is clear that the south wing of the Garage was built along with the rest of the original buildings.

Judging from maps and aerial photographs, the south wing of the Garage was the original portion of the building. The north warehouse wing that exists today does not appear on plot plans of the hospital from 1922¹ and 1925², and also does not seem to appear on a USGS quadrangle map from 1927.³ However, an aerial photograph of the Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital campus from ca. 1930-1935 shows the south wing of the Garage, plus a small gabled connector structure and the north warehouse wing. The north wing thus seems to have been added ca. 1928-1935. The north warehouse wing of the Garage appears identical to the Storehouse (Building 8), which was originally built in 1926 as a storage facility for the hospital.

In 1939, the small gabled connector structure was replaced with a larger flat-roof addition that joined the south and north wings. The addition contained a large shop space, a large stock room, a toilet, and a small chauffeur's lounge. The interior of the south wing was also shown on the floor plan of the addition, and the south wing contained two garage bays

¹ Department of the Treasury, Supervising Architect's Office, *U.S. Veterans Bureau, Jefferson Barracks, Plot Plan*, 1922, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

² U.S. Veterans Bureau, *Plot Plan, Jefferson Barracks No. 92, Roads and Walks*, 1925, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

³ United States Geological Survey, *Jefferson Barracks Quadrangle Map*, 1927, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

for fire trucks, two bays for ambulances, six bays for auto storage, and one bay dedicated to an auto-washing facility.⁴

The Garage continued to serve as a storehouse and garage facility through the 1930s and 1940s. In the early 1950s, work began for expanding facilities at the Jefferson Barracks VA facility to convert the campus into a neuropsychiatric hospital. A series of large new buildings were constructed for the hospital from 1950 to 1952. The functions of many of the original 1920s buildings at the VA campus at Jefferson Barracks changed at that time, but the Garage appears to have continued its role as a garage and storage facility.

The Garage is currently characterized on VA building lists as an engineering and warehouse facility. The south wing is used for storing lawnmowers and shop parts and as office space for maintenance personnel. The north wing is still used as a storage facility. The interior of the building has been altered fairly little since the 1950s. The Garage is scheduled for demolition in the coming years as part of a redevelopment project at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division.

Sources:

Department of the Treasury, Supervising Architect's Office. *U.S. Veterans Bureau, Jefferson Barracks, Plot Plan*. Washington D.C., 1922. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

United States Geological Survey. *Jefferson Barracks Quadrangle Map*. 1927. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

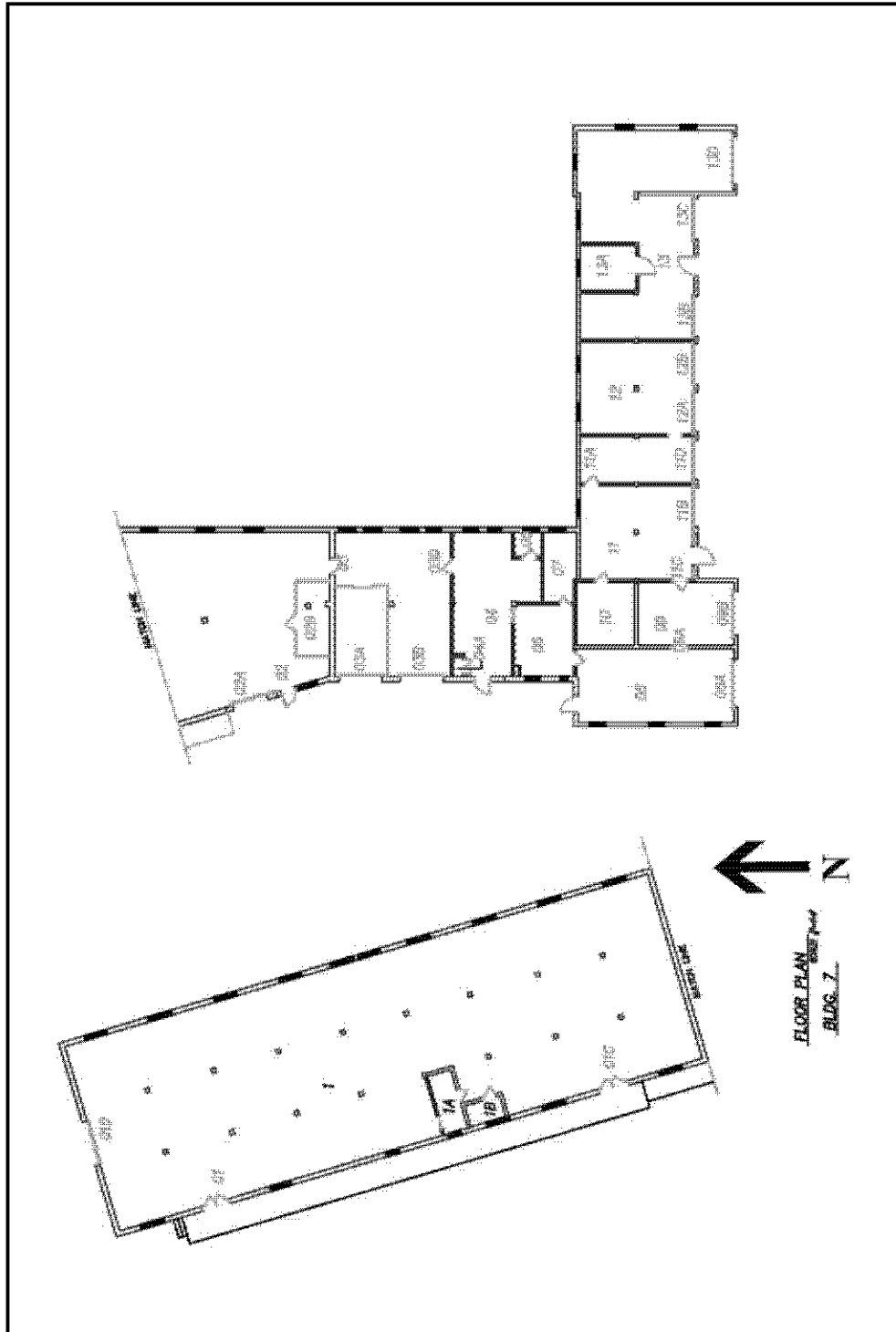
U.S. Veterans Administration. *Addition to Garage, Building No. 7, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.* 1939. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

U.S. Veterans Bureau. *Plot Plan, Jefferson Barracks No. 92, Roads and Walks*. 1925. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

Historians:

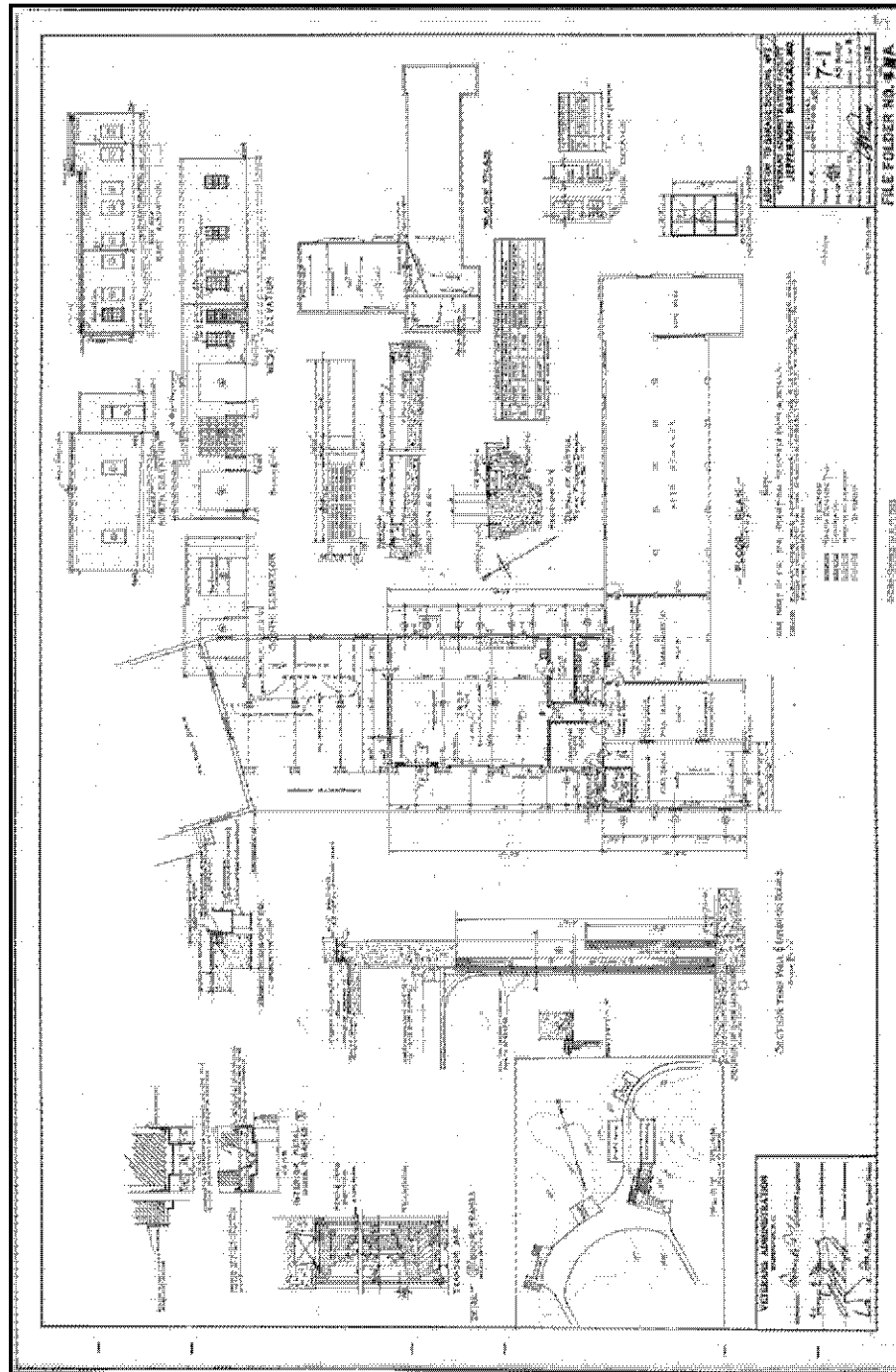
Maria Burkett, Roy Hampton
Hardlines Design Company
4608 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Tel: 614-784-8733
Fax: 614-786-9336

⁴ U.S. Veterans Administration, *Addition to Garage, Building No. 7, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.*, 1939, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.



Garage (Building 7), current floor plan

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, GARAGE
HABS No. MO-1943-G
(Page 6)



1939 plans, elevations, and details of the Garage (Building 7)